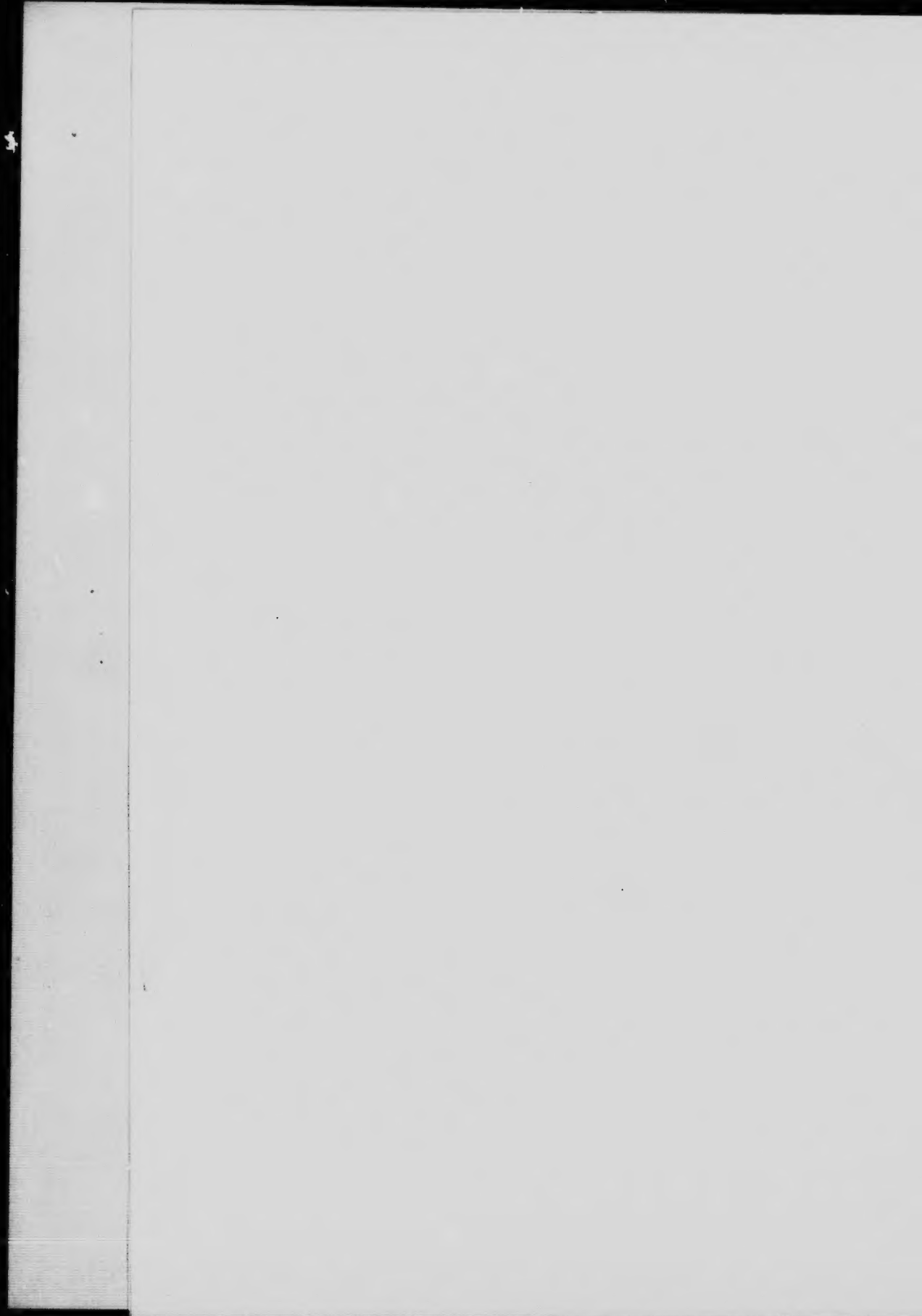




SOUVENIR

WESTERN CORPORATION

LIMITED

VANCOUVER AND
NORTH VANCOUVER

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1907

CITY ARCHIVES

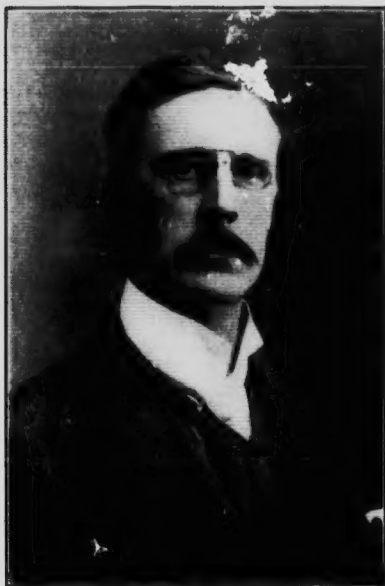
VANCOUVER, B. C., CANADA

Presented May 19, 1942, by
C. B. Diplock Esq.
Gen. Mgr. B. C. Telephone Co.
& "Diplock Place"
North Vancouver.

HISTORY OF THE
WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

1902-1907

In the year 1902, one October day, half a dozen business men met together in the City of Vancouver and formed themselves into a Limited Liability Company, for the purpose of taking over the business of Mr. A. B. Diplock, applying for such powers for extension in various directions as were deemed necessary for the business in view. This small beginning was the origin of the



A. B. DIPLOCK, ESQ.
PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.



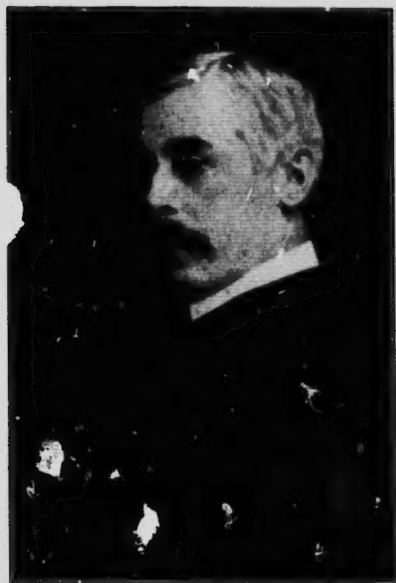
W. W. MONTELIUS, ESQ.
PRESIDENT OF THE MONTELIUS PIANO CO.
LD.—DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LD.

WESTERN CORPORATION, with its real estate, house building, general contracting, sawmilling, roadmaking, land clearing and other similar enterprises.

The staff at that time included the Manager, Mr. Diplock, and one assistant. It was not long, however, before it was found necessary to add to the number, as the business on the plans laid down by Mr. Diplock was found to supply a want in the community and thoroughly justified the



C. WENTWORTH SAREL, ESQ.
PRESIDENT OF THE B. C. BOOK CO. LD.—
DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LD.



A. DUNBAR TAYLOR, ESQ.
SENIOR MEMBER OF TAYLOR, BRADBURN
& INNES, BARRISTERS—DIRECTOR OF
WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

complete confidence placed in the manager by the directors. To-day there are over eighty employees, and the business still demands a further increase.

It is a well-worn axiom, that unless you are progressing you are going backward. The WESTERN CORPORATION, with the foresight that one is justified in calling usual, saw the great opportunity hitherto untouched, in opening up the dormant district of North Vancouver. Directly across



J. C. KEITH, ESQ.
PRESIDENT OF THE PORT NELSON CAN-
NING CO.—DIRECTOR OF THE
WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



A. E. KEALY, ESQ.
SECRETARY OF THE WESTERN COR-
PORATION, LD.

the inlet from Vancouver, the flourishing terminal city of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the western port of Canada and terminal of several important steamship lines, the gateway to the Orient, lay the small and scattered village, struggling in a wilderness of burned stumps and tangled brush.

Among the advantages foreseen were the climate, North Vancouver, sloping as it does gently to the southwest, and protected from all severe weather; is at least



H. C. WRIGHT, ESQ.
MANAGER NORTH VANCOUVER OFFICE.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE
WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.



W. T. BUTLER, ESQ.
MANAGER OF THE MANUFACTURERS'
AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF THE
WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.

three weeks earlier in vegetation than any place in the vicinity, and is in a magnificent position to supply the unlimited and ever increasing market of Vancouver; with a magnificent view of Vancouver City and harbor, and on an ordinary day, away over Stanley Park, across the beautiful Gulf of Georgia, the timber-laden ragged fringe of islands, which skirt Vancouver Island, and last, but by no means least, the coming commercial advantages.



S. TYTLER, ESQ.
MANAGER OF THE REAL ESTATE DEPART-
MENT OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LD.



W. N. LAILEY, ESQ.
ARCHITECT AND BUILDING SUPERINTEN-
DENT FOR THE WESTERN COR-
PORATION, LD.

The south side of Burrard Inlet is practically entirely in the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who naturally by their forethought, having secured such tremendous advantages, in no way welcome rival railways. The North Vancouver shore on the other hand is free, and any projected railways, in order to obtain deep sea wharves and other facilities must come to that side of the inlet.



WILLIAM RUSSELL
MANAGER OF THE PLUMBING DEPART-
MENT OF THE WESTERN COR-
PORATION, LD.



SAM MARTIN
MANAGER OF THE LAND CLEARING DE-
PARTMENT OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LD.

These facts, which have been sufficiently proved by time, led to the establishment of a real estate department for the dealing in, primarily, of North Vancouver properties. A plan was suggested by the manager, by which the heavy blanket mortgage, which prevented the settlement of the choicest land was lifted, and as a consequence the pick of the municipality was put on the market and thrown open for occupation, on easy terms.



J. KIRKLAND
COOK AT THE WESTERN CORPORATION
BOARDING HOUSE



V. STRAUBE
BOOK-KEEPER OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, I.D.

As was anticipated, success attended this policy, the only drawback being the lack of capital for proper development. The local capitalists were doing sufficiently well with their own projects, and what capital they could lay their hands on, was greedily absorbed for their own requirements. The little municipality of North Vancouver, with only about seventy-five inhabitants, could not afford to make any great outlay



OFFICES OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.
PENDER STREET, VANCOUVER, B. C.



HEAD OFFICE OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.

for opening up roads, etc., and settlers were handicapped.

The WESTERN CORPORATION, after viewing the situation, decided to increase their capital and seek further powers from the supreme court, which was granted on March 17th, 1905, and immediately embarked in the business of road making and land clearing. The first practically at cost, in order to help



OFFICES OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.
LONSDALE AVENUE, NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.



INTERIOR VIEW OF PORTION OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION
"MANUFACTURERS' AGENCY" DEPARTMENT

on the rapidly rising town. With the usual originality it was decided that the old fashioned methods of the stumping powder and mattock were altogether too slow and too expensive. A large donkey engine was purchased of the kind used by loggers in hauling logs from the forest by cable, and with this and a judicious use of blasting powder, immense stacks of roots and stumps,



INTERIOR OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION GENERAL
OFFICE IN NORTH VANCOUVER



INTERIOR OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION ARCHITECT'S OFFICE
NORTH VANCOUVER

forty and fifty feet high, were piled up and burned, leaving the land ready for the plough, for the garden or orchard, and for building—parenthetically one might add, the neighboring City of Vancouver watched this system of clearing, with the result that two large engines of similar design were ordered, and are now in use in the suburbs of the older city. As progress stimulates progress



WESTERN CORPORATION WHARF
NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.



SHIPPING OUT FINISHING LUMBER FROM THE WAREHOUSE OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LTD., LONSDALE AVENUE, NORTH VANCOUVER

and big dividends are the greatest inducement to investment, the shareholders of the corporation eagerly invested more money and declared the large profits in further shares, using the money to increase the ever-growing enterprise.

The WESTERN CORPORATION planned and built the first business block in North Vancouver, and was the means of in-



SHIPPING OUT COAL FROM THE COAL BUNKERS OF THE
WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



WESTERN CORPORATION PLUMBER'S SHOP

ducing the first tradesman to embark in business, a circumstance he himself has never for one moment regretted. Building operations, however, by reason of the expense in transportation and other difficulties, were still very expensive. Lumber and building supplies had to be brought over from Vanceboro by boat, thus making small quantities practically prohibitive, and



ONE OF THE STABLES OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



SOME OF THE TEAMS AND TEAMSTERS OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

although the improved roads did away with the necessity of packing every thing to the scene of operations, as was done formerly, still the erection of any kind of edifice was not a thing to be lightly undertaken. To meet this, the corporation went into the business of lumber merchants, builders and contractors, and thus enabled the consumer to purchase anything from a single



GENERAL VIEW OF THE MILL SITE OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.
SEVENTEENTH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.



PORTION OF COOK HOUSE AND BUNK HOUSES OF THE WESTERN
CORPORATION, LD.

board, to a house and lot and garden ready for planting out, also giving the intending purchaser of property in the municipality, a reasonable certainty that he could erect a dwelling on his property at a moderate cost. This branch of the business, one might almost say, led to the owning and operating of a sawmill. The WESTERN CORPORATION already possessed some valuable standing



PORTION OF SAW MILL AND LUMBER YARD OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION
SEVENTEENTH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.



WESTERN CORPORATION TEAMS BRINGING IN LOGS TO THE MILL

timber, and excellent arrangements were made with owners of adjoining properties for their timber rights, thus insuring enough material for a fair sized sawmill to convert into lumber for some time to come, while the prices in the local market, in consequence of the ever increasing demand, enabled a good profit to be made in this branch of the business and placed the corporation in a sound



DONKEY ENGINE OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION
HAULING LOGS TO THE MILL

position for undertaking the supplying of lumber.

While all these bigger and more imposing works were being carried on, the smaller, but no less important work, had been rigorously proceeded with. Inducements had been held out, successfully, to various trades and professions to settle, and several industries were established and nursed into

ROADMAKING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



ASPECT OF FOREST BEFORE MAKING A ROAD

standing on their own legs. A splendid wharf site was secured and wharf erected into which the tram lines run, thus enabling supplies to be taken right up to the sawmill or vice versa, and facilitating the B. C. Electric Railway in landing their supplies, poles, etc., for the tramway and electric light system. Coal was also imported and delivered by the corporation teams, and all and

ROADMAKING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



ROAD PARTLY MADE
THE UNDERBRUSH HAS BEEN CUT, READY FOR THE DONKEY
ENGINE TO PULL OUT THE STUMPS

every matters of smaller import given the closest attention.

That the enterprise has been amply justified and the forethought of the management has been demonstrated as the following statistics bear out :

ROADMAKING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



COMPLETED ROAD.

	1902.	1907.
Number of inhabitants.	75	1,507
Total assessment.....	\$943,969	\$4,003,729
Sidewalks.	$\frac{3}{4}$ mile	4 miles.
Roads	20 miles	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
Bridges.....	400 feet	1,800 ft.
Tramways.	none.	5 miles.
Waterworks.....	none.	} Complete System
Electric light.....	none.	
Telephones.....	none.	} Complete System

51 'Phones.



RESIDENCE OF A. B. DIPLOCK
PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



RESIDENCE OF A. E. KEALY, ESQ.

So much for the general work of the WESTERN CORPORATION. The working and methods are also equally interesting.

The head office is in the City of Vancouver. Here the general accounts of the corporation are kept, and the real estate and other transactions are consummated. Here also the board meets, of which Mr. A. B. Diplock is President and General Manager ;



RESIDENCE OF H. C. WRIGHT, ESQ.
BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

Messrs. W. W. Montelius, President of the Montelius Piano Co., Ltd.; C. Wentworth Sarel, President of the British Columbia Book Co., Ltd.; A. Dunbar Taylor, senior member of the firm of Taylor, Bradburn & Innes, Barristers and Solicitors, Victoria and Vancouver, and J. C. Keith, President of the Port Nelson Canning Co., Ltd., are directors, and Mr. A. E. Kealy, Secretary. Mr. S



"THOMPSON BLOCK," NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.
DESIGNED BY DALTON & EVELEIGH
BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



"BEASLEY BLOCK," NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

Tytler, Manager of the Real Estate Department, has his headquarters here, and also the sample room, under Mr. W. J. Butler, in which are exposed numerous articles of which the corporation has the British Columbia agency.

All the other offices, workshops, etc., are across Burrard Inlet, two miles by the ferry. Immediately on arrival at the terminus of



THE FIRST BUSINESS BLOCK IN NORTH VANCOUVER
ERECTED BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.



RESIDENCE OF W. B. BUNBURY, ESQ
LOCAL MANAGER B. C. E. RY. CO.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LTD.

the tramway line are the corporation's wharves, warehouses, coal bunkers and lumber sheds, also the North Vancouver branch business office, where plans and specifications are made for new buildings, and where all the business connected with contracting, retailing of supplies and other undertakings are attended to. Mr. H. C. Wright, the Assistant Secretary, has the supervision of these departments.

Here it is not out of place to say that the WESTERN CORPORATION has to congratu-



RESIDENCE OF MRS. SCRIVEN
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



RESIDENCE OF H. L. RADENMACHER, ESQ.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

late itself on the way it is served. The employees, who number in all something over eighty, make their employers business theirs. The system of bonuses, the personal care by the management of their interests, produces a mutual regard and a community of interests that makes for harmony and success.

Away up in the hills, two miles from the wharf, with which it is connected by telephone and by tram line, is the sawmill, and so great has been the demand for its product that it is impossible to turn out lumber quick



RESIDENCE OF ALEX. PHILIP, ESQ.
CLERK OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITY
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



RESIDENCE OF W. L. BOULT, ESQ.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

enough. Additional machinery, however, is shortly expected to meet this satisfactory condition, and what was originally a small sawmill for the purpose of economically using up the big logs removed in clearing the forest, and of helping the building department with plenty of rough lumber, is now an up-to-date manufacturing concern and a hive of industry.

As before stated, the business of land clearing, of converting the pathless forest into land fit for settlement, for the garden



RESIDENCE OF H. W. YOUNG, ESQ.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION LD.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. DOUGALL
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

and the orchard, was one of the first enterprises of the corporation, and so successful are the methods employed, under the management of Mr. Sam Martin, that the wilderness, in an incredibly short time, is transformed into the garden, a profitable transaction, not only to the community at large and the corporation, but also to the settler.

Land covered but a year ago with brush and forest is now supplying tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables earlier than they can be produced anywhere in the district for



RESIDENCE OF R. P. CORNISH, ESQ.
DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



COTTAGE IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION
BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

the ready Vancouver market at a handsome profit. The tired business man is enabled to employ his leisure with the growing of flowers and fancy horticulture.

Away up in the pine and cedar woods—an ideal spot for health, natural beauty and comfort—standing in its own grounds, cleared by the corporation, is St. John's Private Boarding School. The school was designed and built by the corporation. It is replete with every comfort and convenience. Electric light, pure mountain water, a perfect

LAND CLEARING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



VIRGIN SOIL, WHERE SPLENDID FRUIT IS GROWN AFTER
THE LAND IS CLEARED OF STUMPS, TREES, ETC.

LAND CLEARING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.

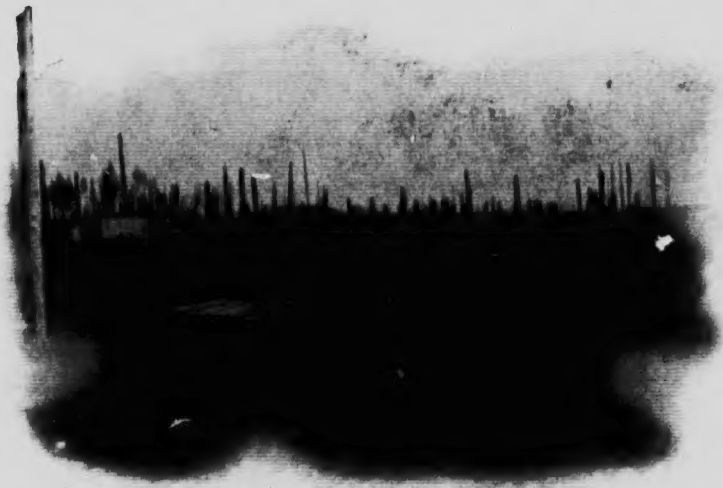


STUMPS AND TREES PILED UP BY THE DONKEY
ENGINE READY TO BURN

system of heating, a combination of all the latest modern conveniences in the midst of primeval forest, which could only be found in this marvellous country, is only one of the examples of the pioneer work of the corporation.

Shops, dwelling houses, stores and other buildings too numerous to mention in this slight sketch, some of which can be judged from the pictures herewith presented, all bear permanent witness to the energy, foresight and success of the WESTERN CORPORA-

LAND CLEARING BY THE WESTERN CORPORATION, LD.



LAND CLEARED READY FOR THE PLOUGH

tion. In a word, nothing is too large for them to undertake, nothing too small to be given detailed attention to.

The intending settler, with sufficient money for his first instalment, with little or no knowledge of business, or of the difficulties of clearing building, etc., is taken in hand by the corporation. His land is put into condition to yield, his house is erected ready for occupation, and on such terms and with such easy payments as can be easily met, or should he at any time elect to sell

again, in such shape that a purchaser is easily found.

The WESTERN CORPORATION has made money for its shareholders, for its employees, for its clients, and has incidentally increased the prosperity of the Municipality of North Vancouver, in so much that the whole community has benefitted, and the value of every person's property has increased.